

From: Ballotpedia updates@info.ballotpedia.org
Subject: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #75
Date: August 30, 2023 at 4:35 PM
To: jennifer.newby@boyle.kyschools.us

B

[View in Browser](#)



Ballotpedia's Hall Pass

Keeping you up to date on school board politics and education policy

Welcome to Hall Pass

August 30, 2023

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over universal government-funded school meals
- School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications
- Oklahoma State Board of Education votes to upgrade Tulsa Public Schools' accreditation status following superintendent resignation
- Stay up to date with responses to trends in curriculum development
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey
- School board candidates per seat up for election

Share story ideas or reactions by replying to this email.

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER



On the issues: The debate over universal government-funded school meals

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district.

Eligibility for government-funded free or reduced-price school meals is typically tied to family income, with students from low-income families receiving the most generous subsidies. But should *all* students have access to government-funded meals?

Allison Pfaff Harris writes in the affirmative. Harris says expanding eligibility would reduce administrative costs associated with processing applications from families seeking school meal assistance. She also says applications create barriers that prevent some children from receiving needed food.

Max Eden writes that government-funded lunches should not be universally available. Eden says it is better for parents to feed their children if they are able and that universal school meals would stigmatize the practice of packing lunch. He also says government-funded meals train children to rely on the government.

Barrier to free school meals hurts students | Allison Pfaff Harris, *The Cap Times*

“A requirement for participation is providing all households the opportunity to fill out a free and reduced price meal application. Students from households with incomes below certain thresholds receive school meals either for free or at a reduced price. This requires school nutrition professionals to prioritize the free and reduced meal application to first ensure all students have access to meals, in itself a time-consuming and emotionally draining task. From addressing questions and comprehension barriers to convincing a household that their income information would remain confidential because the household was too proud or concerned that others in their community would know they were struggling financially — a storyline I heard all too often throughout the state — the application creates a barrier for students in achieving their full potential. And not simply their academic potential while in K-12 school, but throughout life. Access to nourishing school meals during the school day means improved focus in the classroom, opening the door for

the school day means improved focus in the classroom, opening the door for future employment, educational, and professional opportunities, and nurturing healthy family, social and community relationships.”

The Case Against Universal Free Lunch | Max Eden, *American Enterprise Institute*

“There is a strong case for governmental provision of food to children whose parents can’t—or won’t—feed them. But that’s not the question at hand. The question is whether the government should feed children whose parents can provide them with the food they need. ... Parents have a primal drive to provide food for their children. But parents are also sensitive and responsive to the social pressures their children face. Kids apply stigma to behaviors that go against norms. Universal free lunch would all but certainly engender a stigma against kids bringing brown lunch bags, crowding out parental food preparation. Would this really be good for parents? Or for children? ... Any child naturally inclined to gratitude in the act of eating would not be reflecting on how the love and labor of their parents, working as units within society, brought that food to their plate. Rather, they must contemplate the state as provider. Such reflection must necessarily inform and transform a child’s moral worldview, with human consequences that will evade econometric analysis. ... Beyond the taxpayer sticker shock, we should far more carefully consider the moral, social, and potentially biological costs of universal free school lunch.

Share candidate endorsements with us!

As part of our goal to solve the [ballot information problem](#), Ballotpedia is gathering information about school board candidate endorsements. The ballot information gap widens the further down the ballot you go, and is worst for the more than 500,000 local offices nationwide, such as school boards or special districts. Endorsements can help voters know more about their candidates and what they stand for.

Do you know of an individual or group that has endorsed a candidate in your district?

Click [here](#) to respond!

School board update: filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications

Ballotpedia has historically covered school board elections in about 500 of the country's largest districts. We're gradually expanding the number we cover with our eye on the more than 13,000 districts with elected school boards.

Election results from the past week

Idaho

On Aug. 29, residents of the West Bonner County School District voted to recall two school board members—Zone 4 Representative Keith Rutledge and Zone 2 Representative Susan Brown. Rutledge served as the board's chairman and Brown served as vice chairman.

Unofficial results from the Bonner County Elections Department showed a 63-37% majority voted in favor of recalling Rutledge, and a 66-34% majority voted in favor of recalling Brown. A majority of voters had to cast ballots in favor of each recall for them to be successful.

Recall supporters initiated the effort after the board voted 3-1 to reject an English Language Arts curriculum it had previously endorsed because of concerns about social-emotional learning.

So far this year, we've tracked 219 recall efforts against 325 officials. The efforts against 37 of those officials appeared on the ballot, and 28 were removed from office in recall elections. Recall elections against another 31 officials are scheduled to occur later this year.

We'll have more on this recall in next week's edition.

Upcoming school board elections

New Hampshire

Fourteen seats on the Manchester School District school board in New Hampshire are up for election this year, with a primary scheduled for **Sept. 19**. The general election is scheduled for Nov. 7. We'll bring you more about these elections in a future issue.

these elections in a future issue.

November elections

Nov. 7 is the biggest election date of the year, and voters across the country will decide state and local races—including for school boards (subscribe to our *Daily Brew* newsletter for Ballotpedia's coverage and analysis of elections up and down the ballot). Throughout the fall, we'll preview the most interesting and pivotal school board elections happening that day. Let's step back and take a look at the big picture.

We're covering school board elections in the following **16** states on Nov. 7:

School board elections on Nov. 7, 2023

This table shows the 16 states where Ballotpedia is covering school board elections on Nov. 7, 2023, and associated upcoming filing deadlines. Dates shaded in blue are upcoming.

| State | Filing deadline |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Colorado | September 1 |
| Idaho | September 8 |
| Iowa | September 21 |
| Kansas | June 1 |
| Kentucky | June 6 |
| Minnesota | August 15 |
| Mississippi | September 6 |
| New Hampshire | July 21 |
| New Jersey | July 31 |
| New Mexico | August 29 |
| North Carolina | July 21 |
| Ohio | August 9 |
| Pennsylvania | August 1 |
| Texas | August 21 |
| Virginia | June 13 |
| Washington | May 19 |

In seven of those states—Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington—we are covering *all* school board elections on Nov. 7. We'll be bringing you detailed coverage of those elections.

Oklahoma State Board of Education votes to upgrade Tulsa Public Schools' accreditation status following superintendent resignation

On Aug. 24, days after Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Deborah Gist announced she would step down from her role, the Oklahoma State Board of Education voted unanimously to upgrade Tulsa Public Schools' accreditation status to "accredited with deficiencies"—temporarily ending a months-long conflict between the state and Oklahoma's largest school district.

The six-member board said Tulsa Public Schools has three deficiencies: the submission of untimely reports, a lack of financial transparency, and violating state financial accounting standards. The board comprises Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters (R) and five members appointed by the governor with the consent of the state Senate.

Since taking office in January, Walters has criticized Tulsa Public Schools for low academic performance and financial mismanagement.

State Department of Education General Counsel Bryan Cleveland said Tulsa Public Schools "has been risking misuse of its finances through a lack of internal controls." The district is pursuing litigation against its former chief talent and equity officer for allegedly embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars between 2018 and 2021. Gist said "a single late accreditation report and an isolated, self-reported embezzlement incident should not cause the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education to lose local control over the future of our school district."

Gist, who became superintendent in 2015, said the district was making progress on student achievement. Gist announced her resignation on Aug. 22, writing "it is no secret that our state superintendent has had an unrelenting focus on our district and specifically on me, and I am confident that my departure will help to keep our democratically-elected leadership

and our team in charge of our schools–this week and in the future. So I'm stepping away.”

Gist said her last day would be Sept. 15. The Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education appointed the district's chief learning officer as interim superintendent.

Walters said, “I am optimistic that this is a step in the right direction. I've been crystal clear that Tulsa Public Schools needs a dramatic change in leadership.”

In July 2022, the board voted 4-2 to reduce the district's accreditation status to “accredited with warning” for violating HB 1775. HB 1775, enacted in 2021, prohibits teachers, administrators, and other school staff from teaching ideas that include “an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.” The incident stemmed from a teacher's complaint that mandatory staff training material contained “statements that specifically shame white people for past offenses in history, and state that all are implicitly racially biased by nature.”

The state board reviews the accreditation status of all districts on an annual basis. That happened for most districts at the board's July 27 meeting. However, Walters said he wanted to take an additional look at two districts, including Tulsa Public Schools.

Although the district's accreditation status improved following the Aug. 24 vote, it must provide monthly in-person reports to the state board detailing its progress in correcting the deficiencies. Walters said, “Tulsa has been given an opportunity to correct themselves. And to be very clear, I will not let this district fail. If they do not fix these problems, I will. The clock is started. There will be accountability.”

Walters said he would revisit the district's accreditation status if he didn't see progress within three to four months.

Walters first mentioned reviewing the district's accreditation status at a rally in support of Tulsa Public Schools board member E'Lena Ashley, who faced criticism from other members of the board after leading a prayer during a high school graduation ceremony. Walters said, “At the next board meeting we have next month, we will be looking at Tulsa Public Schools' accreditation for all their violations, fiscal mismanagement in this district, and we are going to make sure that religious liberties are protected in Tulsa Public Schools.”

In response to the accreditation vote, Gov. [Kevin Stitt](#) (R) said, “The things that they asked for are very reasonable, and I was excited the state board voted on those and I think it’s the right thing to do. Now it’s up to the local community and up to the school board and the Tulsa community to improve on their district and so that’s exactly how it should work.”

State Rep. [Monroe Nichols](#) (D), whose district includes parts of Tulsa, [said](#), “I don’t know his heart or the hearts of the board members, but I know they have over and over focused on the issue of race, and they just now happen to be threatening to ‘unaccredit’ the school district that educates the most Black kids in the state. There are several other districts whose outcomes are worse than TPS’, and none of them are facing the same consequences.”

Tulsa Public Schools has [a student population of around 34,000](#).

Stay up to date with responses to trends in curriculum development

In addition to covering school board [elections](#) and [endorsements](#), we’re also documenting how individuals and groups are responding to some of the biggest education controversies of the day—including the debates over K-12 curriculum.

Approaches to K-12 curriculum development in public schools vary across states and school districts. State officials, local districts, school leaders, or teachers may each play a role in shaping what students read and learn.

State-level content standards—educational learning and achievement goals that state education officials either require or recommend—may also influence curriculum development.

Our article on responses to trends in curriculum development includes stories in the following areas:

- [Critical race theory \(CRT\) and CRT-adjacent issues](#)
- [Changes to history, civics, and social science curricula](#)
- [Changes to environmental and climate science curricula](#)
- [Textbooks and model curricula](#)
- [Removal of books from school libraries](#)
- [Access to instructional materials](#)

- access to instructional materials
- Sex education and gender policies

For example, here are some recent stories we've covered on CRT and CRT-related issues:

- **Tennessee teacher group sues state over law governing instruction on social issues:** The Tennessee Education Association filed a lawsuit on July 25 in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee challenging a 2021 state law that prohibits teaching "certain concepts about racism, sexism, bias, and other social issues."
- **Nebraska senator announces hearing date to study the use of CRT in public schools:** Nebraska state Sen. Dave Murman (R), chairman of the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee, announced the committee would hear testimony on July 31, from Nebraska Department of Education officials, educators, and parents. The hearing was scheduled after the passage of three interim study resolutions (which Murman introduced in May) through which the legislature resolved to study the usage of CRT, social and emotional learning, parental involvement, access to educational materials, and other related issues in public schools.

Here is a recent story on sex education and gender policies:

- **North Carolina lawmakers override governor's veto on bill banning some sexual education:** The North Carolina Legislature voted to override Gov. Roy Cooper's (D) veto of Senate Bill 49 on Aug. 18. The bill prohibits curriculum on "gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality" in elementary schools. The bill also requires parental notification before "any changes in the name or pronoun used for a student."

And here is a recent story on history, civics, and social science curricula:

- **Arkansas Department of Education removes AP African American studies course:** On Aug. 11, the Arkansas Department of Education removed the AP African American studies course from schools for the 2023-2024 school year, saying the pilot course may not align with state law. According to *Education Week*, the state department said it "cannot approve a pilot that may unintentionally put a teacher at risk of violating Arkansas law." The College Board introduced the curriculum in 60 schools during the 2022-2023 school year and was set to expand to more schools nationwide in the 2023-2024 school year, including six schools in Arkansas. Florida was the first state to ban the curriculum in January 2023.

Click [here](#) to read more about responses to trends in curriculum development.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- [A school closure cliff is coming. Black and Hispanic students are likely to bear the brunt](#) | *The Hechinger Report*
- [NYC school bus strike looms ahead of new year. What families should know.](#) | *Chalkbeat New York*
- [Four Reasons to Be Hopeful from Latest Summer School Study](#) | *The 74*
- [The Florida AP Psychology Controversy, Explained](#) | *Education Week*
- [Is the Post-Pandemic Era Ripe for Rethinking High School?](#) | *EdSurge*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district



Everyone deserves to know their candidates. However, we know it can be hard for voters to find information about their candidates, especially for local offices such as school boards. That's why we created **Candidate Connection**—a survey designed to help candidates tell voters about their campaigns, their issues, and so much more.

If you're a school board candidate or incumbent, click [here](#) to take the

survey. And if you're not running for school board, but there is an election in your community this year, share the link with the candidates and urge them to take the survey!

The survey contains over 30 questions, and you can choose the ones you feel will best represent your views to voters. **If you complete the survey, a box with your answers will display on your Ballotpedia profile.** Your responses will also appear in our sample ballot.

In the 2022 election cycle, **6,087** candidates completed the survey.

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2023 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED



SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

From: DA Daily PM Newsletter newsletter@districtadministrationmagazine.com
Subject: Superintendent wonders when educators stopped being viewed as heroes
Date: August 31, 2023 at 4:01 PM
To: jennifer.newby@boyle.kyschools.us

DN

DAdaily

[View in browser](#)



The Two-Minute Afternoon Briefing for K-12 Leaders

Advertisement

ROAD TO FETC

Engaging All Students with Esports in Education:
Sharing Strategies and Lessons Learned as Esports Programs Grow Nationally

September 13 | 4:00PM ET | 1 Hour

[REGISTER NOW](#)

TRENDING ON DA

Being shelf-less: How digital reading and listening boost literacy

Gretchen Zaitzeff, DA guest columnist

Reading apps allow educators to drop entire libraries into students' hands, inviting them to read in print, on their phones while traveling, and through their headphones when being active.

[Read more >>](#)

TOP STORY



Superintendent wonders when educators stopped being viewed as heroes

How the public went so quickly from calling educators the heroes of the pandemic to "villains" and "groomers" bothers Papillion La Vista Community Schools Superintendent Andrew Rikli.

[Read more >>](#)

Advertisement

DA District Administration SUPERINTENDENTS SUMMIT



Lake Geneva, WI,
Grand Geneva
October 11-13, 2023



Tucson, AZ,
JW Marriott Tucson
Starr Pass
November 8-10, 2023



Naples, FL,
Naples Grande
Beach Resort
December 13-15, 2023

Space is limited, reserve your spot NOW!

AROUND THE NATION

Houston ISD's Mike Miles doubles down on open-door classroom policy

Chron

Miles said requiring teachers to leave their doors open during class time is about administrators observing the quality of instruction.

[Read more >>](#)

American classrooms need more educators. Can virtual teachers step in to bridge the gap?

USA Today

Most observers, including some providers of these very services, agree this isn't ideal. Students with virtual teachers often say they like the classes but would prefer the instruction to be in-person.

[Read more >>](#)

Over 30 new LGBTQ education laws are in effect as students go back to school

NBC News

Students and teachers have to contend with a variety of restrictions on LGBTQ content

and bathroom and pronoun use.

Read more >>

Entire contents copyright © 2023 *District Administration*® All rights reserved. May not be reproduced in any form without written permission.

District Administration®

222 Lakeview Ave. West Palm Beach, FL 33401

You're receiving this email at jennifer.newby@boyle.kyschools.us because you signed up for a *District Administration*® eNewsletter or attended one of our conferences. Don't forget to add districtadministrationmagazine.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox.

You may [unsubscribe](#), if you no longer wish to receive our emails. [Manage My Subscriptions](#). Read our [privacy policy](#).

From: Ballotpedia updates@info.ballotpedia.org
Subject: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #76
Date: September 6, 2023 at 4:06 PM
To: jennifer.newby@boyle.kyschools.us

B

[View in Browser](#)



Ballotpedia's Hall Pass

Keeping you up to date on school board politics and education policy

Welcome to Hall Pass

September 06, 2023

Welcome to *Hall Pass*, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over notifying parents about social transitions in schools
- Share candidate endorsements with us!
- School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications
- Two school board members recalled in West Bonner County School District, Idaho
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Share story ideas or reactions by replying to this email.

BALLOTPEdia

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER



On the issues: The debate over notifying parents about social transitions in schools

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district. Missed an issue? Click [here](#) to see the previous education debates we've covered.

State and local policies differ on whether school officials and teachers must notify parents if their child is socially transitioning their gender identity (such as using different pronouns or names) in the classroom.

Connie Walden writes that gender transitioning is a gradual process of experimentation and self-discovery. Walden says students should be able to tell their parents about their gender identities when they feel comfortable. Robert Pondiscio writes that schools do not have the right to keep knowledge, especially information related to a child's health and well-being, from parents—and that schools will undermine institutional trust if they remove parents from gender decisions.

Should Schools Tell Parents Their Child Identifies as Transgender? | Connie Walden, *New York Times*

“Trans youth often wait to come out to their parents simply for need of space and time to understand their identities. Transition isn’t a flick of a switch; it’s a complex, gradual, weaving journey of identity. My own transition started in high school. At what stage between my experimenting with makeup now and then to asking specific friends to call me Connie would I have officially, suddenly, socially transitioned? When should I have been robbed of the right to come out to my own family, to decide when to include them in my own process? I recognize the pain of well-meaning parents who feel that their child kept such a large “secret” from them. Yet with transition being a gradual process of experimentation, there is no big secret. There’s only kids slowly figuring out who they are, like all other kids. Maybe the demand of these parents, that their children must treat them as “safe spaces” to be told all, is itself what makes these kids feel unsafe.”

The hill that public education dies on: Transgender policies’ utter contempt for parents | Robert Pondiscio, *Fordham Institute*

“It will be argued that these policies are rarely enacted, but that’s beside the

It will be argued that these policies are rarely enacted, but that's beside the point. A government-run institution granting itself permission to withhold life-changing information from parents about their own children is both profoundly alarming and a massive overreach. These policies effectively demolish parental authority and allow the state to assume a role for which it has no rightful or reasonable claim. There is simply no credible evidence to support the belief that parents do not have in mind the best interest of their transgender children. ... Indeed, there are no words adequate to capture this level of institutional hubris. If teachers in our nation's public schools wish to restore and maintain Americans' trust in education, they must be willing to acknowledge a simple fact about their profession: They're not free agents, not activists or ideologues, but government employees with no reason or right to usurp parental authority. A public education system that ignores or overrules the fundamental role of parents, placing the state in a position of superior authority over children will not be accepted for long. If this is the hill public education chooses to die on, don't be surprised if it gets its wish."

Share candidate endorsements with us!

As part of our goal to solve the [ballot information problem](#), Ballotpedia is gathering information about school board candidate endorsements. The ballot information gap widens the further down the ballot you go, and is worst for the more than 500,000 local offices nationwide, such as school boards or special districts. Endorsements can help voters know more about their candidates and what they stand for.

Do you know of an individual or group that has endorsed a candidate in your district?

Click [here](#) to respond!

School board update: filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications

Ballotpedia has historically covered school board elections in about 500 of the country's largest districts. We're gradually expanding the number we cover with our eye on the more than 12,000 districts with elected school

cover with our eye on the more than 15,000 districts with elected school boards.

Upcoming school board elections

New Hampshire

Fourteen seats on the Manchester School District school board in New Hampshire are up for election this year, with a primary on **Sept. 19**. The general election is scheduled for Nov. 7. We'll bring you more about these elections in a future issue.

November elections

Nov. 7 is the biggest election date of the year, and voters across the country will decide state and local races—including for school boards (subscribe to our Daily Brew newsletter for Ballotpedia's coverage and analysis of elections up and down the ballot). Throughout the fall, we'll preview the most interesting and pivotal school board elections happening that day. Let's step back and take a look at the big picture.

We're covering school board elections in the following **16** states on Nov. 7:

School board elections on Nov. 7, 2023

This table shows the 16 states where Ballotpedia is covering school board elections on Nov. 7, 2023, and associated upcoming filing deadlines. Dates shaded in blue are upcoming.

| State | Filing deadline |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Colorado | September 1 |
| Idaho | September 8 |
| Iowa | September 21 |
| Kansas | June 1 |
| Kentucky | June 6 |
| Minnesota | August 15 |
| Mississippi | September 6 |
| New Hampshire | July 21 |
| New Jersey | July 31 |
| New Mexico | August 29 |

North Carolina

July 21

Ohio

August 9

Pennsylvania

August 1

Texas

August 21

Virginia

June 13

Washington

May 19

BALLOTPEDIA

In seven of those states—Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington—we are covering *all* school board elections on Nov. 7. We'll be bringing you detailed coverage of those elections.

Two school board members recalled in West Bonner County School District, Idaho

ICYMI, on Aug. 29, voters in the West Bonner County School District in Idaho recalled two school board members—Zone 4 Representative Keith Rutledge and Zone 2 Representative Susan Brown. Rutledge was the board's chairman and Brown was vice chairman. Rutledge, Brown, and board member Troy Reinbold, who was not included in the recall, comprised a conservative voting bloc on the five-member board.

Unofficial results from the Bonner County Elections Department showed a 63-37% majority voted in favor of recalling Rutledge, and a 66-34% majority voted in favor of recalling Brown. A majority of voters had to cast ballots in favor of each recall for them to be successful.

West Bonner County School District is located near the top of the Idaho panhandle. In the 2020 presidential election, Bonner County backed Donald Trump (R) over Joe Biden (D) 63.9% to 33.1%.

Due to a unique provision in Idaho law, a second condition had to be met for the two members to be recalled: **the number of yes votes cast against each member had to be *higher* than the number of votes cast in favor of that member in the last election.**

At least 245 votes were needed against Rutledge for the recall to be successful and at least 177 were needed against Brown. Unofficial results

showed 762 voters favored recalling Rutledge, and 624 voters supported recalling Brown.

Bonner County Clerk Michael Rosedale said, “The voter turnout was huge. It was almost as if it was a presidential election.”

Rutledge and Brown will stay in office until the recall results are certified on Sept. 7.

On Aug. 31, the board called a special meeting for Sept. 1, and released an agenda that included items such as “Reorganization of the Board,” “Dissolve Current Board of Trustees,” and “Turn Meeting Over to the Superintendent.” The agenda also included potentially changing Superintendent Branden Durst’s contract to, among other things, allow him to pursue speaking engagements or consulting without the board’s approval. Hours before the special meeting, 1st Judicial District Magistrate Judge Lori Meulenberg issued an injunction that prohibits trustees from making any structural changes to the board until Sept. 7. Priest River Police Chief Drew McLain delivered the injunction to the room where the board had gathered and said the meeting was canceled.

Board members Margaret Hall and Carlyn Barton said they were not told about the special meeting or the agenda until the evening of Aug. 31 and said “the timing of this meeting is highly inappropriate.”

Rutledge, Brown, and Reinbold voted to hire Durst in June, while Hall and Barton voted against doing so. Durst is a former Democratic state lawmaker who joined the Republican Party in 2020. Durst ran for state Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2022, losing in the Republican primary.

On Aug. 16, the Idaho State Board of Education said the district was at risk of violating state law because Durst has not worked in a school full time for at least four years—a requirement for superintendents. The board voted on Aug. 22 to direct Durst to apply for a provisional certificate with the state board that would allow him to continue serving as superintendent.

The remaining members of the five-member board will have 120 days to appoint replacements to fill the vacancies. After 120 days, the county commissioners can fill them. The appointees will serve out the remainder of the terms, which expire in January 2026.

Here’s a timeline of events that led to the recall election:

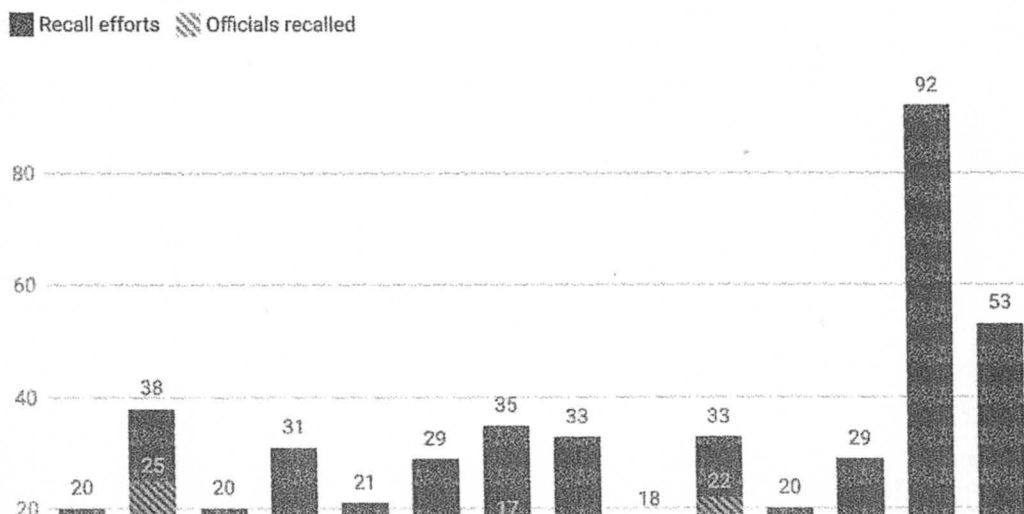
- Brown and Rutledge were first elected to the board in 2021. In June 2022, the board unanimously approved an English Language Arts curriculum from McGraw-Hill.
- On Aug. 24, 2022, the school board voted 3-1 to rescind the curriculum because of concerns about social-emotional learning. Brown and Rutledge voted to rescind.
- In June 2023, community members led by the group Recall, Replace, Rebuild, a local political action committee, launched the effort to recall Brown and Rutledge. Recall supporters had to collect 243 signatures against Rutledge and 180 against Brown to get the recall on the ballot.
- On June 30, Bonner County Clerk Michael Rosedale announced the supporters had gathered 337 verified signatures against Rutledge and 243 against Brown, allowing the recall elections to be scheduled.

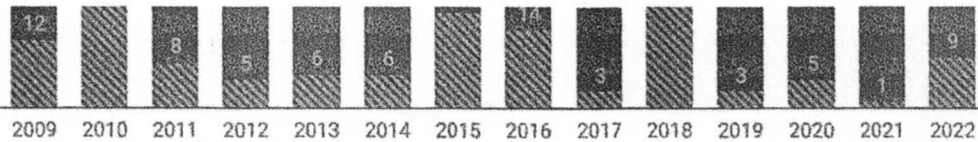
The petitions against Rutledge and Brown said their vote to rescind the curriculum cost the district money because it had to pay to send the curriculum materials back. The petition also said the two board members didn't respect the rights of constituents and the views of other board members.

In their official responses, Rutledge and Brown said recall supporters wanted to prevent "the whole country from seeing how a conservative led school district can improve poor educational outcomes and give our children a better chance at actual success."

Rutledge and Brown are the **fifth** and **sixth** school board members recalled this year. From 2009 to 2022, an average of 10 school board members were recalled each year.

School board members recalled between 2009-2022





BALLOTPEDIA

So far this year, Ballotpedia has identified 219 recall efforts against 325 officials. Recalls for 37 officials made the ballot, and 28 were successfully recalled. Recall elections against another 31 officials will occur later this year. Click [here](#) to read our mid-year recall report, which covers recall activity from the start of the year through the middle of June.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- [4 ways to steer around bus driver shortages](#) | *K-12 Dive*
- [How to Address the Digital Threats That Students Face in Online Education](#) | *EdTech*
- [California's Democratic leaders escalate fights with conservative school boards](#) | *NBC News*
- [New Text law allowing chaplains to counsel school kids may draw boards deeper into culture wars](#) | *San Antonio Express-News*
- [Some Kentucky lawmakers want to consider splitting up JCPS. Could that really happen?](#) | *Courier Journal*
- [Football coach who won lawsuit against public school for on-field prayers returns to gridiron](#) | *Associated Press*
- [What can Florida school vouchers pay for? New lists are raising eyebrows.](#) | *Tampa Bay Times*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

Today, we're taking a look at responses from two candidates facing off on Nov. 7 in the nonpartisan general election to represent the Varina District of the Henrico County Public Schools in Virginia. Voters will decide between incumbent Alicia Atkins, who was first elected in 2019, and Domonique Pervall.

Atkins received endorsements from the Henrico County Democratic Party and Melissa Dart, a former Henrico County Public Schools school board candidate. As of this writing, we have not identified any endorsements for Pervall. To send us additional endorsements, click [here](#).

Here's how Atkins answered the question, **"What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?"**



- "Mrs. Atkins continues working tirelessly as a servant leader to improve educational opportunities for children, empower others, and be a champion for a better environment with successful outcomes. I'm running for a second term for the Henrico County School Board seat representing the Varina District. Visit aliciaatkins.org to learn more about my campaign, achievements, awards, and other efforts to give back to our communities.
- Mrs. Atkins firmly believes that all children deserve an opportunity to reach their full potential. She is a mom with a victorious spirit dedicated to public service. As a California Coast University graduate and Highland Springs High School alum, her servant leadership includes (but is not limited to) serving as a Henrico County School Board Member (<https://henricoschools.us/school-board/varina-district/>), VCU Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention Trainer, and participating on multiple boards and committees.
- Donate today to help Mrs. Atkins win the 2023 School Board election.

Please donate visiting <https://aliciaatkins.org/campaign-2023> or mail your donation to Friends of Alicia Atkins, PO Box 754, Sandston, VA 23150."

Click [here](#) to read the rest of Atkins' responses.

Here's how Pervall answered the question, "**What are the main points you want voters to remember about your goals for your time in office?**"



- "I fight for the youth my voice is a instrument for change and my key focus in making sure the district I represent is successful.
- I'm not on the sidelines I'm in the game with our youth reassuring each child I'm coach
- Dominique Pervall fighting for inclusiveness.
- Remember Pervall for change. I'm on a mission to ensure educational excellence is the blueprint for our district."

Everyone deserves to know their candidates.

However, we know it can be hard for voters to find information about their candidates, especially for local offices such as school boards. That's why we created **Candidate Connection**—a survey designed to help candidates tell voters about their campaigns, their issues, and so much more.

Click [here](#) to read the rest of Pervall's responses.

In the 2022 election cycle, **6,087** candidates completed the survey.

If you're a school board candidate or incumbent, click [here](#) to take the survey. And if you're not running for school board, but there is an election in your community this year, [share the link](#) with the candidates and urge them to take the survey!

The survey contains over 30 questions, and you can choose the ones you feel will best represent your views to voters. If you complete the survey, a box with your answers will display on your Ballotpedia profile. Your responses will also appear in our [sample ballot](#).

In the 2022 election cycle, 6,087 candidates completed the survey.

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2023 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED



SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

[Adjust your preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

COPYRIGHT © 2023. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

From: Ballotpedia updates@info.ballotpedia.org
Subject: Hall Pass: Your Ticket to Understanding School Board Politics, Edition #77
Date: September 13, 2023 at 4:03 PM
To: jennifer.newby@boyle.kyschools.us

B

[View in Browser](#)



Ballotpedia's Hall Pass

Keeping you up to date on school board politics and education policy

Welcome to Hall Pass

September 13, 2023

Welcome to Hall Pass, a newsletter written to keep you plugged into the conversations driving school board politics and governance.

In today's edition, you'll find:

- On the issues: The debate over whether schools need more male teachers
- Share candidate endorsements with us!
- School board filing deadlines, election results, and recall certifications
- Here's who approves K-12 curriculum in the 50 states
- Extracurricular: education news from around the web
- Candidate Connection survey

Share story ideas or reactions by replying to this email.

BALLOTPEDIA

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER



On the issues

In this section, we curate reporting, analysis, and commentary on the issues school board members deliberate when they set out to offer the best education possible in their district. Missed an issue? Click [here](#) to see the previous education debates we've covered.

According to the [most recent data](#) from the [National Center on Education Statistics](#) (NCES), the percentage of male teachers in U.S. public schools dropped from 33% in 1980 to 23% in the 2020-2021 school year. Today, we'll examine arguments about whether the trend is cause for concern.

Richard Reeves writes that fewer male teachers is a problem and that positive male role models are important for children's academic achievement, especially for boys. Reeves says male teachers are more likely to serve as mentors and lead after-school programs and extracurricular activities.

Ryan Fan writes that male teachers should not be expected to serve as mentors or father-like figures for their students and that both men and women can be positive role models. Fan says there is no evidence suggesting teachers' gender affects education outcomes. He says the problems facing education are systemic and not tied to teacher demographics.

Head of the Class | Richard Reeves, *No Mercy / No Malice*

"I do think it is a problem and a policy concern. The emptying out of men from our schools is bad news for at least three reasons. First, having a male teacher improves educational outcomes, especially in certain subjects like English (where boys are lagging furthest behind girls). One study suggests that If half the English teachers in middle schools were men the achievement gap in reading between girls and boys would fall by approximately a third — a massive effect. ... Second, male teachers are much more likely to take on after-school activities, especially coaching sports teams. A recent Brookings study finds a gender pay gap among K-12 teachers of about \$2,200 a year in favor of men. The difference in base pay is just \$700 a year. Most of the gap, about \$1,200 a year, is explained by the extra pay men get from doing extracurricular work. ... Third, the men in our schools are mentors to both male and female students. A recent study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that having an informal mentor in high school improved educational performance across a range of measures; most impressive was a 9% increase in college attendance."

impressive was a 37% increase in college attendance.

Do We Really Need More Male Teachers? | Ryan Fan, *Medium*

"The stereotype is 'these kids don't have positive male figures in their lives,' which is true in some cases but not necessarily true in every case, and I find it a logical fallacy to conclude that because some students don't have positive male role models in their lives, a male teacher is supposed to fill that role. I saw a colleague and good friend, who my supervisors didn't think was doing what he was supposed to do, once get told 'you could be a positive Black male figure in these kids' lives, but you're not!' That's just way too much of a gap and too much pressure to put on someone. We're just teachers. The sudden need to become a positive father-like figure is a bit too much, and I don't think it's very fair either. And research from the Economics of Education Review found there is no empirical evidence to support teacher gender having an impact on student academic performance across 15 OECD countries. The bigger role models for children are peers or relatives over teachers. ... More male teachers is not a band-aid for education's problems. These problems are all very systemic, but when I think back to my teachers it wasn't the gender of the teacher that ever made me connect with them at a deeper level."

Share candidate endorsements with us!

As part of our goal to solve the [ballot information problem](#), Ballotpedia is gathering information about school board candidate endorsements. The ballot information gap widens the further down the ballot you go, and is worst for the more than 500,000 local offices nationwide, such as school boards or special districts. Endorsements can help voters know more about their candidates and what they stand for.

Do you know of an individual or group that has endorsed a candidate in your district?

Click [here](#) to respond!

School board update: filing deadlines, election

results, and recall certifications

Ballotpedia has historically covered school board elections in about 500 of the country's largest districts. We're gradually expanding the number we cover with our eye on the more than 13,000 districts with elected school boards.

New Hampshire

Fourteen seats on the [Manchester School District](#) school board in New Hampshire are up for election this year, with a primary on **Sept. 19**. The general election is Nov. 7.

November elections

Nov. 7 is the biggest election date of the year, and voters across the country will decide state and local races—including for school boards (subscribe to our [Daily Brew](#) newsletter for Ballotpedia's coverage and analysis of elections up and down the ballot). Throughout the fall, we'll preview the most interesting and pivotal school board elections happening that day. Let's step back and take a look at the big picture.

We're covering school board elections in the following **16** states on Nov. 7:

School board elections on Nov. 7, 2023

This table shows the 16 states where Ballotpedia is covering school board elections on Nov. 7, 2023, and associated upcoming filing deadlines. Dates shaded in blue are upcoming.

| State | Filing deadline |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Colorado | September 1 |
| Idaho | September 8 |
| Iowa | September 21 |
| Kansas | June 1 |
| Kentucky | June 6 |
| Minnesota | August 15 |
| Mississippi | September 6 |
| New Hampshire | July 21 |

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| New Jersey | July 31 |
| New Mexico | August 29 |
| North Carolina | July 21 |
| Ohio | August 9 |
| Pennsylvania | August 1 |
| Texas | August 21 |
| Virginia | June 13 |
| Washington | May 19 |

BALLOTPEDIA

In seven of those states—Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington—we are covering *all* school board elections on Nov. 7. We'll be bringing you detailed coverage of many of those elections.

Here's who approves K-12 curriculum in the 50 states

Recently, debates over what gets taught in public school classrooms have increasingly reflected national partisan concerns—so much so that governors and even presidents have waded into the curriculum controversies.

Consider two examples involving prominent governors.

In 2022, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) signed legislation requiring school districts to make public all instructional material, required readings, and library books, while also allowing parents to file formal objections to material they find unacceptable.

In California, Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) this year said he would fine the Temecula Unified School District after the board, citing references to Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man elected to public office in California, voted to reject an elementary school social studies curriculum. On Sept. 7, the California Assembly voted to send AB 1078 to Newsom's desk. The bill would prohibit school districts from rejecting "instructional materials that

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)
 2. *Chlorophyll b* (Chl *b*)
 3. *Chlorophyll c* (Chl *c*)
 4. *Chlorophyll d* (Chl *d*)
 5. *Chlorophyll e* (Chl *e*)
 6. *Chlorophyll f* (Chl *f*)
 7. *Chlorophyll g* (Chl *g*)
 8. *Chlorophyll h* (Chl *h*)
 9. *Chlorophyll i* (Chl *i*)
 10. *Chlorophyll j* (Chl *j*)
 11. *Chlorophyll k* (Chl *k*)
 12. *Chlorophyll l* (Chl *l*)
 13. *Chlorophyll m* (Chl *m*)
 14. *Chlorophyll n* (Chl *n*)
 15. *Chlorophyll o* (Chl *o*)
 16. *Chlorophyll p* (Chl *p*)
 17. *Chlorophyll q* (Chl *q*)
 18. *Chlorophyll r* (Chl *r*)
 19. *Chlorophyll s* (Chl *s*)
 20. *Chlorophyll t* (Chl *t*)
 21. *Chlorophyll u* (Chl *u*)
 22. *Chlorophyll v* (Chl *v*)
 23. *Chlorophyll w* (Chl *w*)
 24. *Chlorophyll x* (Chl *x*)
 25. *Chlorophyll y* (Chl *y*)
 26. *Chlorophyll z* (Chl *z*)
 27. *Chlorophyll aa* (Chl *aa*)
 28. *Chlorophyll ab* (Chl *ab*)
 29. *Chlorophyll ac* (Chl *ac*)
 30. *Chlorophyll ad* (Chl *ad*)
 31. *Chlorophyll ae* (Chl *ae*)
 32. *Chlorophyll af* (Chl *af*)
 33. *Chlorophyll ag* (Chl *ag*)
 34. *Chlorophyll ah* (Chl *ah*)
 35. *Chlorophyll ai* (Chl *ai*)
 36. *Chlorophyll aj* (Chl *aj*)
 37. *Chlorophyll ak* (Chl *ak*)
 38. *Chlorophyll al* (Chl *al*)
 39. *Chlorophyll am* (Chl *am*)
 40. *Chlorophyll an* (Chl *an*)
 41. *Chlorophyll ao* (Chl *ao*)
 42. *Chlorophyll ap* (Chl *ap*)
 43. *Chlorophyll aq* (Chl *aq*)
 44. *Chlorophyll ar* (Chl *ar*)
 45. *Chlorophyll as* (Chl *as*)
 46. *Chlorophyll at* (Chl *at*)
 47. *Chlorophyll au* (Chl *au*)
 48. *Chlorophyll av* (Chl *av*)
 49. *Chlorophyll aw* (Chl *aw*)
 50. *Chlorophyll ax* (Chl *ax*)
 51. *Chlorophyll ay* (Chl *ay*)
 52. *Chlorophyll az* (Chl *az*)
 53. *Chlorophyll aza* (Chl *aza*)
 54. *Chlorophyll abz* (Chl *abz*)
 55. *Chlorophyll acz* (Chl *acz*)
 56. *Chlorophyll adz* (Chl *adz*)
 57. *Chlorophyll aez* (Chl *aez*)
 58. *Chlorophyll afz* (Chl *afz*)
 59. *Chlorophyll agz* (Chl *agz*)
 60. *Chlorophyll ahz* (Chl *ahz*)
 61. *Chlorophyll aiz* (Chl *aiz*)
 62. *Chlorophyll ajz* (Chl *ajz*)
 63. *Chlorophyll akz* (Chl *akz*)
 64. *Chlorophyll alz* (Chl *alz*)
 65. *Chlorophyll amz* (Chl *amz*)
 66. *Chlorophyll anz* (Chl *anz*)
 67. *Chlorophyll aoz* (Chl *aoz*)
 68. *Chlorophyll apz* (Chl *apz*)
 69. *Chlorophyll aqz* (Chl *aqz*)
 70. *Chlorophyll arz* (Chl *arz*)
 71. *Chlorophyll asz* (Chl *asz*)
 72. *Chlorophyll atz* (Chl *atz*)
 73. *Chlorophyll auz* (Chl *auz*)
 74. *Chlorophyll avz* (Chl *avz*)
 75. *Chlorophyll awz* (Chl *awz*)
 76. *Chlorophyll axz* (Chl *axz*)
 77. *Chlorophyll ayz* (Chl *ayz*)
 78. *Chlorophyll ayz* (Chl *ayz*)
 79. *Chlorophyll azz* (Chl *azz*)
 80. *Chlorophyll azaa* (Chl *aza*)
 81. *Chlorophyll abz* (Chl *abz*)
 82. *Chlorophyll acz* (Chl *acz*)
 83. *Chlorophyll adz* (Chl *adz*)
 84. *Chlorophyll aez* (Chl *aez*)
 85. *Chlorophyll afz* (Chl *afz*)
 86. *Chlorophyll agz* (Chl *agz*)
 87. *Chlorophyll ahz* (Chl *ahz*)
 88. *Chlorophyll aiz* (Chl *aiz*)
 89. *Chlorophyll ajz* (Chl *ajz*)
 90. *Chlorophyll akz* (Chl *akz*)
 91. *Chlorophyll alz* (Chl *alz*)
 92. *Chlorophyll amz* (Chl *amz*)
 93. *Chlorophyll anz* (Chl *anz*)
 94. *Chlorophyll aoz* (Chl *aoz*)
 95. *Chlorophyll apz* (Chl *apz*)
 96. *Chlorophyll aqz* (Chl *aqz*)
 97. *Chlorophyll arz* (Chl *arz*)
 98. *Chlorophyll asz* (Chl *asz*)
 99. *Chlorophyll atz* (Chl *atz*)
 100. *Chlorophyll auz* (Chl *auz*)
 101. *Chlorophyll avz* (Chl *avz*)
 102. *Chlorophyll awz* (Chl *awz*)
 103. *Chlorophyll axz* (Chl *axz*)
 104. *Chlorophyll ayz* (Chl *ayz*)
 105. *Chlorophyll ayz* (Chl *ayz*)
 106. *Chlorophyll azz* (Chl *azz*)
 107. *Chlorophyll azaa* (Chl *aza*)
 108. *Chlorophyll abz* (Chl *abz*)
 109. *Chlorophyll acz* (Chl *acz*)
 110. *Chlorophyll adz* (Chl *adz*)
 111. *Chlorophyll aez* (Chl *aez*)
 112. *Chlorophyll afz* (Chl *afz*)
 113. *Chlorophyll agz* (Chl *agz*)
 114. *Chlorophyll ahz* (Chl *ahz*)
 115. *Chlorophyll aiz* (Chl *aiz*)
 116. *Chlorophyll ajz* (Chl *ajz*)
 117. *Chlorophyll akz* (Chl *akz*)
 118. *Chlorophyll alz* (Chl *alz*)
 119. *Chlorophyll amz* (Chl *amz*)
 120. *Chlorophyll anz* (Chl *anz*)
 121. *Chlorophyll aoz* (Chl *aoz*)
 122. *Chlorophyll apz* (Chl *apz*)
 123. *Chlorophyll aqz* (Chl *aqz*)
 124. *Chlorophyll arz* (Chl *arz*)
 125. *Chlorophyll asz* (Chl *asz*)
 126. *Chlorophyll atz* (Chl *atz*)
 127. *Chlorophyll auz* (Chl *auz*)
 128. *Chlorophyll avz* (Chl *avz*)
 129. *Chlorophyll awz* (Chl *awz*)
 130. *Chlorophyll axz* (Chl *axz*)
 131. *Chlorophyll ayz* (Chl *ayz*)
 132. *Chlorophyll ayz* (Chl *ayz*)
 133.

These examples provide a glimpse into the *political* conflicts over curriculum. But what do state laws actually say about who sets public school curricula?

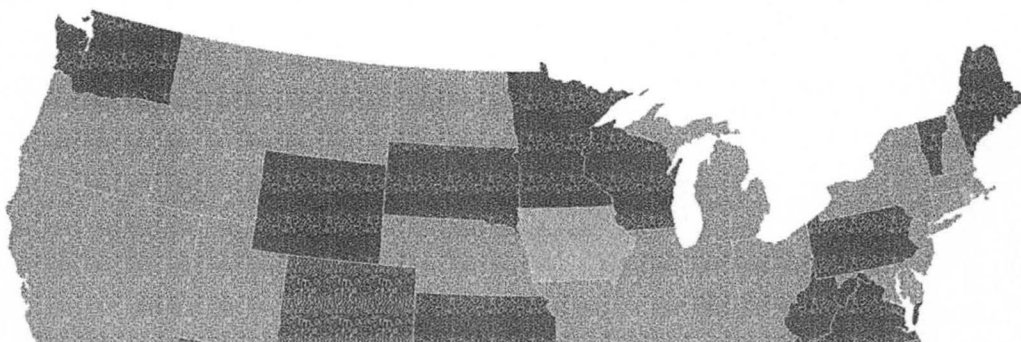
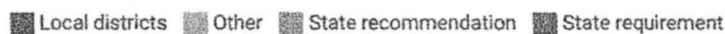
To answer this question, we searched our database for state-specific information about curriculum authority, requirements, and statutes in every state. Depending on the state, the law directs state-level entities—like state boards of education—or local districts or schools to develop and approve curriculum. In some cases, state and local entities may both develop and approve curriculum.

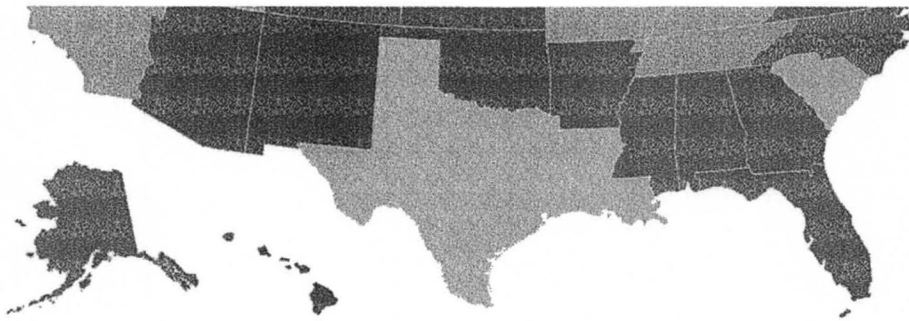
- In 45 states, a local entity (such as school districts and local schools) develops curriculum.
- In Colorado, North Carolina, and Rhode Island, state-level entities (such as state boards of education and state education agency leaders) develop curriculum.
- In South Carolina and Texas, both state-level entities and local entities develop curriculum.

When the law gives state-level entities the responsibility to develop curricula, the law can either *recommend* or *require* that local schools or districts use the state-developed curriculum in the classroom.

The map below shows the states that *recommend* districts to use state-developed curriculum, the states that *require* districts to use state-developed curriculum, and the states that *allow* local schools or districts to develop curriculum without state recommendations. Five states use a combination of state recommendations, state requirements, and local authority. Those states—Iowa, Louisiana, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Texas—are represented on the map as "Other."

State K-12 curriculum authority





Source: Ballotpedia

BALLOTPEDIA

- Iowa grants authority to local entities to develop curriculum but requires some state-level core curriculum items be met.
- Louisiana grants authority to local entities to develop curriculum but requires approval of local curriculum by the state board of education.
- Rhode Island develops curriculum at the state level and maintains some requirements and some recommendations for local districts to follow.
- South Carolina and Texas develop some state board of education curriculum requirements and grant some local discretion to schools and districts for curriculum development.

Here are a few examples from our database:

In Oklahoma, where local districts approve school curriculum, state law § 70-11-103.6a-F says:

School districts shall exclusively determine the instruction, curriculum, reading lists and instructional materials and textbooks, subject to any applicable provisions or requirements as set forth in law, to be used in meeting the subject matter standards. School districts may, at their discretion, adopt supplementary student assessments which are in addition to the statewide student assessments.

In Missouri, where the state board of education makes recommendations about curriculum to local districts, state code § 160.514(5) says:

The state board of education shall develop written curriculum frameworks that may be used by school districts. Such curriculum frameworks shall incorporate the academic performance standards adopted by the state board of education pursuant to subsection 1 of this section. The curriculum frameworks shall provide guidance to school districts but shall not be mandates for local school boards in the adoption or development of written

curricula as required by subsection 6 of this section.

Depending on the state, K-12 curriculum may also reflect or incorporate state content standards—educational learning and achievement goals that state education officials either require or recommend that local schools satisfy through the curriculum.

Click [here](#) to learn more about K-12 curriculum authority, requirements, and statutes in the states.

Extracurricular: education news from around the web

This section contains links to recent education-related articles from around the internet. If you know of a story we should be reading, reply to this email to share it with us!

- [Virginia Went to War Over History. And Students Actually Came Out on Top.](#) | *Politico*
- [Three big questions, asked and answered, about Chicago's move to an elected school board](#) | *WBEZ Chicago*
- [Why These Districts Are Suing to Stop Release of A-F School Ratings](#) | *Education Week*
- [The conservative push for "school choice" has had its most successful year ever](#) | *Vox*
- [Florida Expected to Approve Classical Exam as a Competitor to the SAT](#) | *The New York Times*
- [New Poll Shows Voters See Room for Improvement in School Boards](#) | *RealClearEducation*
- [Salesforce Foundation Grant to Train Teachers on AI](#) | *Government Technology*
- [Oklahoma follows Florida in allowing PragerU in schools](#) | *The Hill*

Take our Candidate Connection survey to reach voters in your district

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

Today, we're taking a look at responses from two candidates facing off on Nov. 7 in the nonpartisan general election for Cheyenne Mountain School District 12 Board of Education at-large in Colorado. Three seats are available, and five candidates are on the ballot.

Incumbent Susan Mellow, who assumed office in 2017, and challenger Betsy Kleiner are the only candidates who've completed the survey as of this writing.

Here's how Mellow answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"School Finance. Cheyenne Mountain is among the lowest in receipt of per pupil funding from the State of Colorado, and with the additional funding generously provided by our local taxpayers, the district has been able to keep per-pupil expenditures below the state average while providing excellent educational opportunities for our students. With possible changes to the school finance formula on the horizon, I intend to

continue to advocate for fair funding from the state for Cheyenne Mountain. I will also continue to advocate for state and federal governments to fully fund requirements they place on our district.

School Safety/Mental Health. Needs in these areas have been increasing over time, and they work hand-in-hand. During my tenure on the Cheyenne Mountain Board of Education, in addition to maintaining a school resource officer at Cheyenne Mountain High School, we have moved from the use of a contract security team to a security team of district employees, allowing for the development of long-term relationships and invaluable institutional knowledge. We have also strengthened intergovernmental partnerships and communications to better handle any emergency. More students are presenting with mental health concerns, and we have consistently added more school psychologists and social workers to properly address student

needs. This landscape continues to change, and I support the district's efforts to continue to monitor and adjust as necessary."

Click [here](#) to read the rest of Mellow's responses.

Here's how Kleiner answered the question, **"What areas of public policy are you personally passionate about?"**



"Betsy shares our community vision to continue vigorous academic achievement and broad career opportunities for our students. She believes in clear communication and transparency and enjoys working in collaboration with other stakeholders to ensure creative solutions. She understands the power of listening, advocacy, kindness and compromise. Betsy is passionate about our community and our students and looks forward to serving as a

member of our local Board of Education."

Click [here](#) to read the rest of Kleiner's responses.

In the 2022 election cycle, **6,087** candidates completed the survey.

If you're a school board candidate or incumbent, click [here to take the survey](#). And if you're not running for school board, but there is an election in your community this year, [share the link with the candidates](#) and urge them to take the survey!

SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA TODAY

Join us on our mission to deliver unbiased and accurate information about American politics and policy to our millions of readers. Your support in 2023 will allow us to continue our mission to build the most comprehensive coverage of the nation's rapidly changing political landscape.

STAY CONNECTED



SUPPORT BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia is a 501c3 organization, established in 2007, to deliver accurate and unbiased information about American politics and policy. All gifts to Ballotpedia are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

BALLOTPEDIA

8383 Greenway Blvd | Suite 600 | Middleton, WI 53562

[Adjust your preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

COPYRIGHT © 2023. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.